# Journal of medical ethics

## The Journal of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

Editor A V Campbell

Consulting Editors A S Duncan C M Fletcher

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Technical Editor Gunilla Liddle

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a depressing ring about it. Much of the current anxiety about psychiatric treatment has been generated by groups opposed to orthodox psychiatry who believe that there is no place for drug treatment or any form of physical therapy. So much publicity has been given to their clamour that it was, perhaps, inevitable that the Medical Research Council should turn down the request by the Royal College of Psychiatrists for a grant for a controlled trial of psychosurgery. Fears and misconceptions have been encouraged by films such as 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – quoted in Parliament as evidence

of public concern though it was based on a fictional account of practices over 10 years' old in the USA. We need to remember that the vast majority of patients needing psychiatric help retain enough insight to accept informal admission, and that treatment given without the patient's consent remains the exception even with formal patients. Yet there are a few patients for whom compulsion is necessary: and to deny this may deprive them of their only hope of returning to sanity.

TONY SMITH

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**Editorial** 

#### Main articles

Justice, welfare and health care Elizabeth Telfer

'Side effects': A misnomer C R B Joyce

The ethics of animal experimentation W Lane-Petter

Copies can be obtained from the Publisher, Journal of medical ethics, Tavistock House East, Tavistock Square, London WCIH 9JR

Exorcism: A psychiatric viewpoint W H Trethowan

Congenital abnormalities and selective abortion

Mary J Seller

#### Case conference

"The soft embalmer of the still midnight": A problem of prescribing hypnotics in general practice Analysis
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News and notes

## News and notes

#### Annual conference

Human sexuality is the subject of the 14th annual conference of the London Medical Group, which will be held in conjunction with the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics, on Friday and Saturday, 11 and 12 February 1977. The conference will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC1.

The conference will examine past and present attitudes to human sexuality and their implications for members of the medical and other caring professions.

Chairmen and speakers will include: Professor R B Welbourn, Director of the Department of Surgery, Royal Postgraduate Medical School; Professor Robin Du Boulay, Professor of Medieval History, Bedford College; Dr Jack Dominian, consultant psychiatrist, Central Middlesex Hospital; Mr P D Trevor Roper, consultant ophthalmic surgeon, Westminster Hospital; Dr Roy Strong, Director, Victoria & Albert Museum; Professor Norman Morris, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of London; Professor Marshall Marinker, Professor of Community Medicine, University of Leicester; Dr Malcolm Pines, consultant psychotherapist, Maudsley Hospital; Sir Denis Hill, Professor of Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry; Dr R D Catterall, Director, James Pringle House, Middlesex Hospital; Mrs Claire Rayner, medical journalist and agony columnist; Mr Peter Righton, author of Counselling Homosexuals; Professor Enda McDonagh, moral theologian, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Further information (SAE) and application forms (available after 3 January 1977) from the Conference Convenor, London Medical Group, Tavistock House East, Woburn Walk, WC1H 9LG

#### Medical weekend for students

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, is arranging a further medical weekend from Friday to Sunday, 25 to 27 March 1977. Further details from the Conference Secretary, London Medical Group, Tavistock House East, Woburn Walk, WC1H 9LG. (SAE).

#### The Director in Poland

Following a visit of some Polish medical students to London in 1975, Edward Shotter, the Director of Studies of the Society, visited Warsaw, Lublin and Cracow in June 1976 to meet doctors and others interested in promoting the study of medical ethics in Poland.

#### Communication with the patient

The southern medical groups' conference on 'Communication with the patient' will be arranged by the Bristol Medical Group on Saturday, 23 April 1977. Further information from the Hon Secretary, Bristol Medical Group, Dr Chris Lovell, Department of Medicine, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol BS2 8HW. (SAE).

#### First northern conference of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

The first northern conference of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics will be held in the University of Edinburgh on 21 and 22 January 1977. The conference will deal with the subject of human birth. Further details and application forms from the Secretary, EMG Project Office, Top Flat Right, 24 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh. (SAE).

#### Children, medicine and the law

The Newcastle Medical Group is arranging a conference on 'Children, medicine and the law' on Saturday, 12 March 1977. Further information from the Secretary, Newcastle Medical Group, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Newcastle, St Thomas Street, Newcastle. (SAE).

#### James Blackie Memorial Fund

The first editorial in this issue is a tribute to James Blackie, a member from its inception of the Editorial Board of this Journal. One of his major interests was the restoration of old property for those with particular housing needs, including the disabled. And as this would have pleased him more than any lectureship or other memorial, it is proposed to establish a fund to make possible a good restoration of such an old building in Edinburgh, and call the house James Blackie House. Contributions, however small, should be sent to the Hon Treasurer, Edinvar Housing Association, New College, The Mound, Edinburgh.

# The Editor of the Journal of medical ethics visits South Africa

In September the Editor of the Journal of medical ethics visited the Republic of South Africa at the invitation of the Medical Faculty of the University of Stellenbosch in order to attend a conference marking the official opening of the Faculty's teaching hospital at Tygerberg. The theme of the conference was 'Mankind and medicine in the third millenium'. Throughout the conference it was stressed that priorities in health care must be reallocated in the Republic of South Africa. In his paper, which was widely reported in the South African press, Dr Campbell indicated the dangers inherent in creating a system which would result in an escalating health problem for the majority of the population.

## Correspondence

#### The utilization of animals

SIR.

In the 'Ethics of animal experimentation' (Journal of medical ethics, 2, 119-126), Lane-Petter writes:

'But there is a positive advantage in man exercising his dominance in dealing with animals in this [experiments] as in most other ways that bring him into intimate contact with animals. Whether in the laboratory, on the farm, in the zoo or the circus. hunting with gun or camera, harpoon or net, the people thus involved have to study and understand their subject. Understanding, among people of goodwill, brings respect, and respect is likely to be followed by considerate treatment and a general enrichment of life for both man and animal.'

As Clark notes in his comment (*Ibid*, p 125), this exhibits a considerable degree of naïveté. But more than this, the argument as an argument is spurious. It lumps together a range of different human-

animal associations and assumes that the human understanding of animals which genuinely characterizes some of these associations must somehow characterize all of them, a risky assumption about matters of fact which the facts themselves do not support.

It is certainly true that some understanding of animals is necessary in order to raise them successfully, to maintain them in zoos and circuses, and in the case of wild animals to find and kill them. But the kind of understanding which is necessary for the effective realization of these ends is scientific and technical and not at all the kind which includes or engenders respect for animals and considerate treatment of them. If the ill treatment of animals always had serious economic costs with no compensating benefits, then of course ill treatment would be a much rarer phenomenon than it in fact is. Unfortunately, at the vast commercial scale on which animals are produced and utilized in modern

industrialized societies, the systematic ill treatment of animals in great varieties of ways is economically and technologically most efficient and therefore most profitable. The understanding of animals necessary to produce and utilize them on a commercial scale is precisely an understanding of these efficiencies, including an understanding of the profits to be made by systematic ill treatment. The production and utilization of experimental animals on a commercial scale is probably no better and no worse than our production and utilization of animals for food, but the human understanding exercised in all of the human-animal associations is not even implicity considerate and humane. To remind ourselves of this we need only consider the ethical problems posed by our use of humans as research subjects.

STUART M. BROWN, JR, Program on Science, Technology and Society, 628 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853

News and notes-continued

# New subscription rates for the Journal of medical ethics

Due to increased production costs and postage rates, the annual subscription for subscribers in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic will be £12.00 and US \$25.00 in all countries overseas. The information relating to the purchase of the Journal is set out in full in the notice to subscribers on the page facing the Editorial.

# Philosophers join New York teaching hospitals

From the Harvard Bulletin comes the interesting news that the Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs has received a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities so that philosophers may be appointed to part-time positions in New York teaching hospitals for six months ending on 30 June 1977. Those so appointed will work with medical staff, nursing and medical students and patients to encourage interest in and knowledge of medical ethics and related philosophical topics. This interest and understanding will be aroused by means of lectures, symposia, notes in hospital newsletters and informal discussion. The programme will be directed by the Bio-Ethics Committee of the Society for Public Affairs.

#### Medical ethics debate in Israel

In a conference on 'Clinical research problems in endocrinology' to be held in Tel-Aviv, Israel, from 14 to 24 January 1977, some of the topics to be discussed may be of interest to the readers of the Journal of medical ethics. In particular the papers on 'Abortion, contraception and the fetal rights', should continue the debate which has had so much publicity in Britain. Among the bodies sponsoring the meeting is the Society for Medicine and Law in Israel.

#### **Bioethics Digest**

A new publication concerned with medical ethics is the *Bioethics Digest* which is published monthly by Information Planning Associates Inc, Post Office Box 1523, Rockville, Maryland, USA. It costs \$48 a year, single copy \$6. Basically the *Digest* is an abstracts journal, but it also has feature articles.

## Lectures and symposia

#### Tuesday 11 January

LMG symposium: DETENTION AND RELEASE OF MENTAL PATIENTS 5.45 pm St Bartholomew's Hospital

Professor C J Dickinson, Professor of Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, His Honour Judge Eric Stockdale; Dr Henry Rollin, consultant psychiatrist, Horton Hospital; Professor Desmond Curran, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of London

#### Thursday 13 January

LMG symposium: AGE OF CONSENT: TIME FOR A CHANGE? 6 pm St George's Hospital, Tooting

Professor A H Crisp, Professor of Psychiatry, St George's Hospital Medical School; The Revd Dr Anthony Bird, Principal, Queen's College, Birmingham; Miss Jane Cousins, Secretary, Sexual Law Reform Society

#### Monday 17 January

EMG lecture: IS GERIATRICS THE ANSWER TO OLD AGE? 5.15 pm Edinburgh University Medical School

#### Monday 17 January

MMG symposium: THE ETHICS OF STERILIZATION 5.30 pm Stopford Building, Oxford Road, Manchester

Dr Rodney Harris, Reader in Medical Genetics; Professor The Revd Canon G R Dunstan, Professor of Moral and Social Theology, King's College, London; Dr D W Warrell, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist

#### Tuesday 18 January

LMG symposium: SUICIDE: HAVE THE SAMARITANS THE ANSWER? 5.45 pm St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Professor W S Peart, Professor of Medicine, St Mary's Hospital; The Revd Prebendary Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans; Dr Steven Greer, Department of Psychological Medicine, KCH

#### Thursday 20 January

LMG symposium: RENAL FAILURE IN CHILDREN: THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIALYSIS OR TRANSPLANTATION 5.45 pm St Thomas's Hospital

Professor Jon Scopes, Professor of Paediatrics, St Thomas's Hospital; Dr Cyril Chantler, consultant paediatrician, Guy's Hospital; Dr T Martin Barratt, senior lecturer in paediatric nephrology, Hospital for Sick Children; Mr Barry Hulme, consultant nephrologist, St Mary's Hospital

#### Thursday 20 January

GMG symposium: THE APARTHEID OF THE DISABLED 7.30 pm Western Infirmary, Glasgow

#### **Monday 24 January**

NMG symposium: HOW SAFE ARE YOU IN THE CASUALTY DEPARTMENT? 5.15 pm Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

#### Tuesday 25 January

LMG symposium: PAID FRIENDS FOR THE OLD: A CONSEQUENCE OF COMMUNITY GERIATRIC CARE? 5.45 pm UCH

Professor C G Clark, Professor of Surgery, UCH Medical School; Sir W Ferguson Anderson, Professor of Geriatric Medicine, University of Glasgow; Miss Averil Freeth, Assistant Director 'Age Concern'

## Wednesday 26 January

EMG symposium: VASECTOMY: WHY AND WHEN? I pm Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

#### Thursday 27 January

LMG symposium: STERILIZATION OF THE YOUNG AND OTHERS INCAPABLE OF CONSENT 6.15 pm Westminster Medical School

Mr D M Forrest, consultant paediatric surgeon, Westminster Children's Hospital; Ralph Gibson, Esq, Recorder of the Crown Court; Dr Graeme Snodgrass, consultant paediatrician, The London Hospital; Dr Sheila Duncan, senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology, University of Sheffield

#### Monday 31 January

EMG lecture: PATIENTS' RIGHTS 5.15 pm Edinburgh University Medical School

#### Tuesday I February

LMG symposium: THE BEREAVE-MENT OF STILLBIRTH 6 pm Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham

Dr Hugh Jolly, consultant paediatrician, Charing Cross Hospital; Dr Sandy Bourne, consultant psychotherapist, Tavistock Clinic; Dr David Morris, consultant paediatrician, British Hospital for Mothers and Babies

#### Wednesday 2 February

EMG symposium: NURSES: EDUCATED OR TRAINED? I pm Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

#### Thursday 3 February

LMG lecture: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY 5.45 pm Guy's Hospital Medical School

Dr Cicely Saunders, Medical Director, St Christopher's Hospice

#### **Tuesday 8 February**

SMG lecture: MORALE IN HOSPITALS: WHO CARES? 8 pm Medical School Sheffield Professor Reginald Revans

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Wednesday 9 February
EMG symposium: RADIATION
RISKS 1 pm Western General
Hospital, Edinburgh

#### Thursday 10 February

BMG symposium: THE BATTERED FAMILY 7.30 pm Bristol Royal Infirmary

Mrs Jean Renvoize, author of Children in Danger; a panel of local experts

#### Monday 14 February

MMG lecture: IRRECOVERABLE BRAIN DAMAGE 5.30 pm Stopford Building, Oxford Road, Manchester Professor Bryan Jennett,

Professor of Neurosurgery, Glasgow

#### Tuesday 15 February

LMG symposium: PHYSICAL DISABLEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY: DO DOCTORS CARE? 5.45 pm KCH Medical School

Mr E Maelor Thomas, orthopaedic surgeon, KCH; The Rt Hon Baroness Masham of Ilton, Countess of Swinton; Mr Peter London, accident surgeon, Birmingham Accident Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre

#### Wednesday 16 February

EMG symposium: CHILDREN AND DEATH I pm Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

### Thursday 17 February

LMG symposium: CONTACT TRACING IN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES 5.45 pm The London Hospital Medical College

Dr Eric Dunlop, Whitechapel Clinic, The London Hospital; Miss Isobel Hunter, Health **Education Council** 

#### Tuesday 22 February

LMG symposium: WHY DO NURSES HATE DOCTORS? 5.45 pm Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Mr Stuart Steele, Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Middlesex Hospital Medical School; Miss Jennifer Wilson-Barnett, research nurse, Guy's Hospital; Miss Janet Craig, Assistant Director, King's Fund Centre; Dr Nelson Coghill, consultant physician, West Middlesex Hospital

### Wednesday 23 February

EMG lecture: TERMINAL CARE: ITS NATURE AND MANAGEMENT 5.15 pm Edinburgh University Medical School

#### Thursday 24 February

CMG symposium: WHAT IS HEALTH? 5.30 pm Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff

Dr Stephen Gang, general practitioner, Cardiff; Dr Julian Tudor Hart, general practitioner, Glyn Corrwg; Dr Una Kroll, general practitioner (and deaconess), South London

#### Thursday 24 February

LMG symposium: CRUELTY IN HOSPITALS 5.45 pm Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead

Dr Anthony Smith, Medical Correspondent, The Times; Dr Anthony Clare, senior lecturer, Institute of Psychiatry; Dr Anthony Whitehead, consultant psychogeriatrician, Brighton;

W K Ankers, PhD, formerly of St Augustine's Hospital, Canterbury

Thursday 24 February GMG symposium: EXORCISM

5.30 pm Royal Infirmary, Glasgow

#### Monday 28 February

MMG symposium: THE THERAPEUTIC LIE: DECEPTION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE 5.30 pm Hope Hospital, Salford

#### Tuesday 1 March

LMG symposium: EXORCISM: AN UNOUALIFIED DISASTER? 5.45 pm St Bartholomew's Hospital

Professor Ian McColl, Professor of Surgery, Guy's Hospital; the Revd Don Cupitt, Dean, Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Dr William Sargant, hon consultant psychiatrist, St Thomas's Hospital

#### Thursday 3 March

LMG symposium: INCEST 6 pm St George's Hospital, Tooting, London

Dr Paul d'Orbán, consultant psychiatrist, St George's Hospital; Mrs Pauline Crabbe, Brook Advisory Centre; Miss D J Tibbits, senior probation officer, Dorset Probation and After-care Service; Professor John Mason, Professor of Forensic Medicine, **Edinburgh University** 

#### **Tuesday 8 March**

LMG symposium: COT DEATHS 5.45 pm St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Professor Thomas Oppé, Professor of Paediatrics, St Mary's Hospital; Lady Limerick, Vice-Chairman, Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths; Professor John Emery, consultant paediatric pathologist, The Children's Hospital, Sheffield; Dr Robert Walker, family doctor and parent

#### **Tuesday 8 March**

CMG symposium: TOO OLD TO CARE? 5.30 pm Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff

Dr S L Willington, consultant physician in geriatrics; Dr John Agate, consultant geriatrician, Ipswich; Adrian Evans, Esq, Area Administrator, South Glam AHA; Professor Alan Williams, Department of Economics, University of York

#### Thursday 10 March

LMG symposium: THE ETHICS OF INFANTICIDE 5.45 pm St Thomas's Hospital

Dr W D Wylie, Dean, St Thomas's Hospital; The Rt Hon Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice of Appeal; Dr Elizabeth Tylden, consultant psychiatrist, St Mary's Hospital; Jonathon Glover, PhD

#### Tuesday 15 March

LMG lecture: THE END OF THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP 5.45 pm UCH Medical School

Professor Marshall Marinker, Professor of Community Medicine, University of Leicester

#### Thursday 17 March

LMG symposium: THE AVAILABILITY OF ABORTION: A GEOGRAPHY OF MORALS 6.15 pm Westminster Medical School

Dr Richard Farmer, senior lecturer in community medicine, Westminster Medical School; Professor François Lafitte. Professor of Social Policy and Administration, University of Birmingham; Mrs Juliet Cheetham, lecturer in applied social studies; University of Oxford

#### Tuesday 22 March

BMG lecture: ABUSES OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION 7.30 pm Bristol Royal Infirmary

Dr M H Pappaworth, author of Human Guinea Pigs

#### Tuesday 22 March

LMG symposium: THE MISUSE OF PSYCHIATRY: NOT ONLY IN THE SOVIET UNION 6 pm Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road

Dr Malcolm Weller, lecturer in psychiatry, Charing Cross Hospital; Professor John Wing, Professor of Social Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry; Larry Gostin, Esq, legal advisor, MIND

#### Thursday 24 March

LMG symposium: SEX AND THE DISABLED 5.45 pm Guy's Hospital Medical School Dr Donald Craig, hon lecturer in general practice, Guy's Hospital Medical School W F R Stewart, Esq, Development Officer, Committee on Sexual Problems of the Disabled; Roy Billington, Esq. counsellor and advisor, Cheshire Foundation; Dr Wendy Greengross, general practitioner, broadcaster and author

#### Monday 28 March

NMG symposium: STUDENTS UNDER STRESS 5.15 pm Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastleupon-Tyne

Dr Graham Grant, University

Health Service; Mrs Janet Clark, social worker; Dr Humphrey Richardson, consultant psychiatrist

Tuesday 5 April

BMG lecture: THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE 7.30 pm Bristol Royal Infirmary

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Wednesday 13 April

BMG symposium: DRUG PROMOTION - IN WHOSE INTEREST? 7.30 pm Bristol Royal Infirmary

Dr Clifford Hawkins, consultant physician, Birmingham; Dr Miriam Stoppard, Medical Director, Syntex Pharmaceuticals

Tuesday 19 April

LMG lecture: MARITAL BREAKDOWN 5.45 pm KCH Medical School

Dr Jack Dominian, consultant psychiatrist, Central Middlesex Hospital

Thursday 21 April

LMG symposium: CLINICAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF GENDER IDENTITY 5.45 pm The London Hospital Medical College

Dr Stuart Mason, consultant endocrinologist, The London Hospital; Dr John Randell, consultant psychiatrist, Charing Cross Hospital; Peter Byrne, Esq. moral philosopher, King's College, London

Monday 25 April

NMG lecture: WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT BAD DOCTORS? 5.15 pm Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Professor John N. Walton, Dean of Medicine; Dr Donald Irvine, family doctor, Hon. Sec, Royal College of General Practitioners, member of the Merrison Committee

#### Tuesday 26 April

LMG symposium: TREATMENT BY PHONE-IN: THE NEXT STEP BEFORE COMPUTERS? 5.45 pm Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Dr R D Catterall, Director, James Pringle House, Middlesex Hospital; Dr Hugh Jolly, consultant paediatrician, Charing Cross Hospital; Mrs Anna Raeburn, journalist on Woman; Professor Eric Wilkes, Professor of Community Care and General Practice. University of Sheffield

#### Thursday 28 April

LMG symposium: THE MEDICAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUDDEN DISASTERS 5.45 pm Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead

Mr Colin Madgwick, orthopaedic surgeon, Royal Free Hospital; Surgeon Rear-Admiral Stanley Miles, Medical Director, Health Assessment Centre, Cardiff; Miss Audrey Davey, family case worker, Wales Council for the Disabled, formerly of Aberfan

Tuesday 3 May

LMG symposium: NEUROLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA 5.45 pm St Bartholomew's Hospital

Dr Patrick Cox, Department of Child Health, St Bartholomew's; Professor Charles Marsden, Professor of Neurology, Institute of Psychiatry; Dr Adrian Caro, Director, Huntington's Chorea Research Project

Tuesday 3 May

CMG symposium: who's having THE BABY: THE MOTHER OR THE OBSTETRICIAN? 5.30 pm Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff

Miss Christine Chapman, Director, Advanced Nursing Studies, University Hospital of Wales; Professor Peter Huntingford, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The London Hospital and St Bartholomew's Hospital; Professor B Hibbard, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Thursday 5 May

LMG symposium: FRINGE MEDICINE: CAN IT EVER BE PART OF THE NHS? 6 pm St George's Hospital, Tooting

Professor A E Bennett, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Social Medicine, St George's Hospital Medical School; Dr Ralph Twentyman, consultant physician, Royal London Homeopathic Hospital; Albert Rumfitt, Esq, Dean Emeritus, British College of Naturopathy and Homeopathy

#### Thursday 5 May

BMG symposium: THE NURSE AS A LEARNER AND AS A TEACHER 7.30 DM **Bristol Royal Infirmary** 

Professor Reginald Revans, author of Action Learning in Hospitals; Dr Alison Tierney, lecturer in nursing studies, Edinburgh

Monday 9 May

MMG lecture: REASSURANCE 5.30 pm Stopford Building, Oxford Road, Manchester

Professor W I N Kessel, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Manchester

Tuesday 10 May

LMG symposium: who's having THE BABY: THE MOTHER OR THE OBSTETRICIAN? 5.45 pm St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Professor Richard Beard, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St Mary's Hospital; Mr B Victor Lewis, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Watford General Hospital; Mrs Shiela Kitzinger, childbirth educationist and social anthropologist

Thursday 12 May

LMG symposium: HAVE WE MADE ADOLESCENCE A DISEASE ? 5.45 pm St Thomas's Hospital

Professor W I Cranston, Professor of Medicine, St Thomas's Hospital; Dr Stephen Wolkind, senior lecturer in psychiatry, the London Hospital; Dr Moses Laufer, Director, Brent Consultation Centre

Tuesday 17 May

LMG symposium: TRANQUILLIZERS: TREATMENT OF PATIENT OR DOCTOR? 5.45 pm UCH Medical School

Professor A Brant, Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCH Medical School; Dr John Stevens, general practitioner, Aldeburgh; Dr J D Pollitt, Department of Psychological Medicine, St Thomas's Hospital

Wednesday 15 June

BMG lecture: THE LARGE TEACHING HOSPITAL - A DISASTER IN THE THIRD WORLD? 7.30 pm Bristol Royal Infirmary

Dr David Morley, reader in tropical child health

# Journal of medical ethics

Volume two Numbers 1-4 The Journal of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

Editor

A V Campbell

Consulting Editors

A S Duncan C M Fletcher

Editorial Board

R B Welbourn (Chairman) Patrick Byrne R Y Calne R D Catterall I Dominian G R Dunstan Roger Higgs Lord Kilbrandon Gordon Horobin W S Peart Raymond Plant Dame Muriel Powell Anthony Thorley Sir Martin Roth Cicely Saunders Tony Smith **Edward Shotter** 

Technical Editor
Gunilla Liddle

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The Society aims to influence the quality of both professional and public discussion of medico-moral questions; to promote the study of medical ethics; to ensure a high academic standard for this developing subject; to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to discussion of the consequences of clinical practice; to stimulate research in specific problems; to remain non-partisan and independent of all interest groups and lobbies.

Since 1963 the London Medical Group, a student group for the study of fissues raised by the practice of medicine, has arranged a series of lectures and symposia, now twice weekly throughout the academic year, in the 12 London teaching hospitals and medical schools.

In 1967 the Edinburgh Medical Group was established with similar aims, and subsequently medical groups have been formed in a majority of the British medical schools—currently Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Bristol, Birmingham, Mänchester, Liverpool and Cardiff.

In 1972 junior doctors, who had themselves been associated with the London Medical Group, founded the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics to develop these aims at a postgraduate level.

DOCUMENTATION in Medical Ethics, superseded as the organ of the Society by the Journal of medical ethics, is now produced as the proceedings of the annual conference held in conjunction with the London Medical Group.

In 1975 research fellows were appointed by the Edinburgh Medical Group which has established, in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, a research project in medical ethics and education. This is funded by the Leverhulme Trust Fund and the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.

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There is no individual membership of the Society. Those interested in this work are invited to subscribe to the Journal of medical ethics. The lectures of the London Medical Group and the other associated medical groups, although addressed primarily to medical, nursing and other students, are open to all those professionally interested. There is no charge.

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